

CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, MA
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2007

Called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Public Works office building by Robert Reckman

FOR APPROVAL

- Item #1:* On a Motion made and seconded, the Board VOTED to APPROVE the minutes of the July 25, 2007 Board of Public Works meeting.
- Item #2:* On a Motion made and seconded, the Board VOTED to APPROVE the minutes of the August 29, 2007 Board of Public Works meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- Item #1:* Ms. Elena Ciampa, of 6 Prospect Court asked to be heard by the Board. Mr. James Dostal recused himself from the discussion because he is related to Ms. Ciampa. Mr. Huntley started the discussion by explaining that Prospect Court is a small street used as a cut through by residents. He said the residents put in a speed bump that was removed by the City because it was a hazard. He noted the residents want a gate to block off the street entirely. He said they also want it determined to be a city street and a dead end street.

Ms. Ciampa said as far as she knew, the street was originally constructed as a dead end but it is now a through way. She also said the residents want it determined to be a public way. She asked how that can happen? Mr. Reckhow said the Board has been struggling with the issue of private ways for ten years and have recently formed a committee to deal with the problem. Mr. Hartwell noted that some of the private ways will remain private ways and will not be accepted. Mr. Reckman said some of the streets are able to be considered City streets and he hoped Prospect Court could be one of them. Mr. Reckhow said it would be months before a determination was made and a new policy implemented. He noted he hoped for next summer. Mr. Greg Chiara also a resident of Prospect Court was also in attendance and asked the Board for clarification of the process. The Board said they recommend the street be considered as a city street and it then goes to the City Council and various committees for approval. Ms. Ciampa said the homeowners on the street wanted to make sure they kept their current city services if the street was made a dead end street. Mr. Chiara asked if they put up a gate if it would have any impact on the status of the street. Mr. Huntley noted there are some city streets that have gates that are opened for emergencies only. Mr. Chiara asked if it would help to have a letter submitted by the residents of the neighborhood asking for city street status and Mr. Reckman said it would be fine and he would see them again in a about a year.

On a Motion made and seconded, the Board VOTED to take New Business #8 out of order.

NEW BUSINESS

- Item #8:* On a Motion made and seconded, the Board VOTED to APPROVE the contract for an Alternative Study for Solid Waste Management to Stantec in the amount, not to exceed, \$30,000.00.

On a Motion made and seconded, the Board VOTED to take Informational #2 out of order.

INFORMATIONAL

Item #2: Mr. Laurila stated they received the results of some of the various tests that were done on the private wells within a ½ mile of the landfill. He noted the results showed some natural occurring minerals. He said a well did show some arsenic but it was below set standards and is a naturally occurring mineral in bedrock. He said that arsenic is not found in the leachate at the landfill at concentrations exceeding water standards. He also noted that on the DEP website there is a list of the various minerals that occur naturally in the environment. He stated they are also doing an air quality risk assessment in the landfill area. He said anytime a resident complains about odor, a sample of the air is taken and shipped to the lab. He mentioned that all results have been normal so far. Mr. Reckman asked how much the lab tests cost and Mr. Laurila said approximately \$400 for each test. He also said that the collection canisters have to be revamped every month at a cost to the city.

Mr. Laurila said the DPW submitted a permit to the DEP for a flare at the landfill and hope to construct the flare by the end of the year.

He said that he and Mr. Huntley worked on a memo to the City Councilors about the process regarding the expansion of the landfill. He said they showed how they worked closely with Easthampton on the Maloney well and wanted the Councilors to know that every step was done in collaboration with them. Mr. Huntley also talked about doing an article for the newspaper to explain the process.

NEW BUSINESS

- Item #2:* On a Motion made and seconded, the Board VOTED to approve posting the Board minutes and agendas on the DPW Website.
- Item #3:* On a Motion made and seconded, the Board VOTED to Approve the adding of “Collage” to the Fine Arts Permit.
- Item #4:* On a Motion made and seconded, the Board VOTED to Approve the adding of “Plastic Drum” to the musician’s permit.
- Item #5:* On a Motion made and seconded, the Board VOTED to Approve Change Order #1 to Contract #147-07 for WWTP Polymer to Polydyne, Inc. in the amount, not to exceed, \$2,000.00.
- Item #6:* On a Motion made and seconded, the Board VOTED to Approve the Contract for Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation to Reynolds Inliner, LLC., in the amount of \$191,760.00.
- Item #7:* On a Motion made and seconded, the Board VOTED to Approve the Contract for a Slope Erosion Evaluation on Route 66 to Tighe & Bond in the amount, not to exceed, \$12,100.00.
- Item #9:* On a Motion made and seconded, the Board VOTED to Approve Change Order #13 for the Water Treatment Plant & Appurtenant Work to C.H. Nickerson in the amount of \$3,558.19.
- Item #10:* On a Motion made and seconded, the Board VOTED to Approve the request for Permission to use Pulaski Park by Everywomen’s Center to sponsor the Pioneer Valley Clothesline Project on September 26, 2007 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. A waiver of the fees was also Approved.
- Item #11:* On a Motion made and seconded, the Board VOTED to Approve the request for Permission to use Pulaski Park by the Valley Free Radio to Celebrate Two Years of Community Radio on September 22, 2007 from 12 noon to 6:00 p.m.
- Item #12:* On a Motion made and seconded, the Board VOTED to approve the request for Permission to use Pulaski Park by the Safe Passage with Global Media Project and UN International Day of Peace on September, 23, 2007 from noon to 5:00 p.m. A waiver of the fees was also Approved.

Item #13: On a Motion made and seconded, the Board VOTED to approve the request for Permission to use Pulaski Park by the Wire Monkey Dance on September 16 and 29, 2007 from 12:30 to 6:00 p.m. A waiver of the fees was also approved.

Item #14: On a Motion made and seconded, the Board VOTED to approve the request for Permission to use Pulaski Park by the Mayor, United Veterans of America and ServiceNet to hold a Cook Out for Shelter Sunday for the homeless and economically deprived in Northampton on October 21, 2007 from 10:00 am. to 4:30 p.m. However, the Board denied the request to let them serve food in the park. A waiver of the fees was also Approved.

Item #15: Mr. Laurila gave the Board the new proposed Stormwater application and change of language to the Permit.

On a Motion made and seconded, the Board VOTED to approve the changes and fee structure of the stormwater application.

OLD BUSINESS

Item #1: Mr. Huntley noted the letter received from the Chamber of Commerce regarding newspaper boxes. The letter was read by the Board and discussed and the Board did not choose to make any changes to the Newspaper boxes permit at this time.

Item #2: On a motion made and seconded, the Board VOTED to approve the language changes for the performance permit.

On a Motion made and seconded, the Board VOTED to take Informational #5 out of order.

INFORMATIONAL

Item #5: Mr. Huntley referred the Board to the letter about private ways. He said he felt the Board should ask the City Council for funding to plow all private ways. He stated we should not be using budgeted funds for private ways. Mr. Dostal felt that all City streets that meet the criteria should be accepted. Mr. Hartwell said a street with only one house on it is a driveway and should not be a city street. He also felt we should do a title search on some of the private ways to see who actually owns the property. Ms. Schmidt felt there should be standards set first as to what constitutes private and public ways. The Board discussed funding appropriation for maintaining private ways and Mr. Huntley pointed out there has been a finding by the Inspector Generals Office in Massachusetts regarding expending public funds on private property. He noted the City Council must give us permission to fund the upkeep of the private roads.

Item #1: Mr. Laurila told the Board the original date of completion for the Water Treatment Plant was September 22, 2007 but it has been delayed to late October.

The Board asked to have another tour of the facility and it was set for Friday, September 21, 2007 at 7:15.

Mr. Laurila said the lagoons still need resolution and he is looking for a final resolution prior to the opening of the plant. He also mentioned that the M & E resident engineer's contract ends on September 21, 2007 and we will need a Change Order to extend his contract.

Mr. Laurila said a plaque has been ordered for the dedication and that staff have been working on site getting training prior to the opening. Mr. Reckman asked the Board if they want to name the facility but they decided to wait until a later date to make a decision.

Item #3: Mr. Huntley told the Board the fine we received from EPA at the WWTP was lowered.

He also mentioned that the pumping station is problematic because the pumps are getting worn out. He said he is evaluating all of the pump stations with the department superintendent to determine the age and condition of the pumps.

Item #4: Mr. Reckman updated the Board about the Pulaski Park Committee and gave them a list of the members of the committee. He said he wants the Committee to have a very public process and will schedule four meetings over the next four months. He mentioned the next step for the project will be funding and hopes between capital improvements, grants and CPA there will be enough funding. He also said he will ask the tree committee and the hotel to help with the funding. Mr. Dostal also suggested they ask the Polish Church for help with funding.

Item #6: Mr. Dostal mentioned that Mama Iguana has double rows of tables on the sidewalk in front of their restaurant and he thought the permit only allowed one row. Mr. Huntley said he would look at the permit and address it.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m. Present and voting were James Dostal, Robert Reckman, Gary Hartwell, Rosemary Schmidt and David Reckhow. Susan DeMaria and Terry Culhane were absent. Also present was Edward Huntly the Director of Public Works and James Laurila, City Engineer.